

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014  
6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:40 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Assistant City Clerk Ortiz called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Rick Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District:  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin  
134<sup>th</sup> District:  
135<sup>th</sup> District:  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Milta Feliciano  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Paoletto  
139<sup>th</sup> District:

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

**John Marshall Lee**  
30 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Financial reporting by city.

Mr. Lee came forward and read the following statement into the record:

If I ask an individual, "How are you doing financially?" most people will respond, "OK." It is a very practical answer. They tell me afterwards that their revenue is greater than their current expense including all kinds of taxes. Operationally, at this moment, they sense they are on top of their game. That is similar to what the Budget & Appropriations Committee does for the Council if it bothers to look at the operating budget in detail.

But some people answer such a question by reflecting on their Net Worth. They think about their asset positions including real estate, savings, financial and property investments, business values, retirement plans, annuities and life insurance and compare it to mortgages, education loans, lines of credit, card payments and other liabilities. If the latter are decreasing steadily and under control and the assets are increasing in value, Net Worth likewise is trending positively.

*Council Members Halstead and Martinez joined the meeting at 6:44 p.m.*

If I ask you as City Council members, “How is Bridgeport doing financially in terms of Net Worth?” what would you answer? To what document or report do you look to for such an answer? The only one that comes to mind is the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report last done for the year 2013 and received by you eight months ago in January 2014. Did you hold a hearing to review that report specifically inviting the public to attend and understand the results alongside you? If not, why not? It is the long term measurement tool for whether Bridgeport policy, plans, processes and overall activity are headed in the right direction, building long term community values and fiscal strength.

*Council Member Swain joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.*

In the several years I have been reviewing City monthly operating reports I have been surprised that none of you receive balance sheet information from the City that becomes public. Apparently you do not ask for it either! When the Financial Review Board supervised City finances 20 years ago, they knew what was in every account, every day. And they also were aware of the liabilities, including accounts payable, at any time. With no Internal Auditor to advise on risks, where is your early warning system? With no Finance Board or committee of any type, the Budget & Appropriations Committee is the only body to question, to probe, and do fiscal blocking and tackling. Are they doing this in comprehensive fashion? What can they tell you? The other 13 people on the Council assume they are up to the task and doing it, aren't you? Do any of you elected 20 Council members know the trend of Bridgeport net worth in the past 5 years? Does it matter to City land and building values that they reflect October 1, 2008 assessments rather than October 1, 2013 values for which taxpayers spent \$300,000? And have you bothered to update your understanding of City Pension Plans A & B in the face of what likely are not conservative assumptions regarding interest and retirement payouts? Will Bridgeport MERF contributions for public safety officers increase from today when overtime payouts are factored in? Do the amounts charged for Outside Overtime to contractors when police officers are doing flag duty, reimburse the City for the additional future pension payouts to police under MERF that will include overtime compensation in determining pensions? Have you reviewed such material?

If you have not performed such basic monitoring and review, is it because you have a surplus of trust in the Finance Department of the City? They have provided reports to you with mis-labeled headings twice in the past year that indicates proof-reading is a sometime thing for this most basic report.

As all of you know, I am present at each City Council meeting to share with you information that I think you may not be seeing with a “taxpayer perspective”. It has seemed to some of you that I am critical all the time and you dismiss me automatically. This year two Council representatives

have not allowed me speak at Committees they chair. In once case proponents, who live outside Bridgeport, for a project seeking tax abatement largesse were invited to participate, but I was silenced by the co-chair. That is an abuse of your CC rulebook privilege, I suggest. Yet I continue in the belief that this information will be vital to those who have to turn the City around in the near future. Your current work, including tonight's B&A recommendation for another standing item, is merely re-arranging deck chairs on the Bridgeport version of the Titanic!

My comments are a matter of public record in the City Clerk office, on video archived and in each of your email directories. You cannot plead ignorance of the current and coming fiscal difficulties or of the irregularities that have been noted regarding Council's own extra-ordinance "Stipend" handling and the political payments made to charities in June 2013 from your "Other Services" Legislative account without agenda, meeting or minutes...and the City itself received NO SERVICES. What will you do when questions rise about your financial stewardship? Time will tell.

**Gary Raydor**  
105 Princeton Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Observations of Council Meetings.

Mr. Raydor came forward and said that he had been to several Council Meetings and noticed several things about the representation of the residents by their elected officials. He reminded everyone that they were elected to represent their constituents.

*Council Member Lyons joined the meeting at 6:48 p.m.*

Council President McCarthy then announced that others had signed up to address the Council Members.

**Mr. Clyde Nicholson** came forward and greeted the Council Members about Seaview Avenue warehouse fire and the recent fatal apartment fire. He spoke about the location of the warehouse and their proximity of the warehouse to a hospital, school and residential homes. He wanted to know if the landlord was responsible for putting all the toxic chemicals there. He said that this was not just another fire, but a situation where someone broke the law and many people now have to be tested because of it. He said that the students were expected to be in school the next day without any kind of testing

*Council Members Brannelly and Salter joined the meeting at 6:54 p.m.*

He said that every building should be hard wired to the 9-1-1 system. He then spoke about the recent apartment fire that resulted in the loss of one resident and the hospitalization of two others.

**Mr. Amos Brown** came forward and spoke about public safety and said that the children should be safe not only when they go to school but when they are on the street and in their homes. Stop the shootings of children. He mentioned an incident between Norwalk and Bridgeport where the Mayor of Bridgeport told the City of Norwalk not to send their people to Bridgeport. He said that the Council needs to make a law to stop the shooting. He said that the people need to hold protests for all these deaths.

City of Bridgeport  
City Council  
Regular Meeting  
September 15, 2014

*Council Member DeJesus joined the meeting at 6:55 p.m.*

**Ms. Crystal Mack** came forward and spoke about how people were being taxed unfairly in terms of the re-evaluation. She said that she had worked for the City in the 70's and that some of the documents had been lost. She mentioned the WPCA charging \$4.25 per unit of water. She said that people were losing their homes over the WPCA bills, yet there are rats in the high school. She said that children need leadership but the City is abusing the children by not providing proper leadership. She said that people were losing their homes over \$2,000 WPCA, but the children are going to schools where there are leaking ceilings. She then mentioned the air quality and how the recent fire had released fumes into the nearby neighborhood.

Council President McCarthy said that the next speaker on the list was Ms. Karen Jackson. He called for her three times, but she was not present.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Council at this time. No one came forward.

*Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President McCarthy closed the public speaking at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014  
7:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace**

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Finch called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Council Member Torres led those present in a short prayer.

A moment of silence was requested in memory of the following people:

Marisol Estrada, fire victim; Allianna Ramon, the hospitalized two year old fire victim in critical condition; John Danmore and Tito Molina.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Finch then requested Council Member Taylor-Moye to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Assistant City Clerk Ortiz called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Susan Brannelly, Rick Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Richard DeJesus, Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Lydia Martinez, Milta Feliciano  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Michael Marella, Richard Paoletto  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez-Walker

A quorum was present.

**Mayoral Proclamation: In Recognition of 10-year-old Nalani McDuffie for being crowned Connecticut Jr. Pre-Teen Queen at the 2014 National American Miss Pageant.**

**City Council Citation: In Recognition of 10-year-old Nalani McDuffie for being crowned Connecticut Jr. Pre-Teen Queen at the 2014 National American Miss Pageant.**

Mayor Finch announced that Ms. Nalani McDuffie was recently crowned Connecticut Jr. Pre-Teen Queen at the 2014 National American Miss Pageant event. Council President McCarthy then invited Ms. McDuffie and her parents to come forward to be greeted by the Mayor and numerous members of the Council.

Ms. McDuffie was presented with a proclamation, and flowers. Council Member Banta presented her with the proclamation and said that Ms. McDuffie was a straight A student in school and an excellent athlete. The Mayor proclaimed that September 15, 2014 was Nalani McDuffie Day and the proclamation was read. Ms. McDuffie thanked her parents, the Council member, her teachers and others who helped her along the way and teaching her about the successful life.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: July 7, 2014.**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED THE MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2014.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2014 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEM:**

**160-13 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GROUND LEASE FOR THE USE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE REAR PORTION OF 236 EVERGREEN STREET, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEM:**

**161-13 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS MARTINEZ AND FELICIANO RE: REQUEST THAT NICHOLS STREET BE DESIGNATED**

**AS “TWO-WAY TRAFFIC” FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH PEMBROKE STREET AND EAST MAIN STREET WITH THE PROPER INSTALLATION OF SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:**

**\*121-13 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DISCONTINUANCE OF MORRIS STREET, EAST OF BOSTWICK AVENUE.**

**\*130-13 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY & MANAGEMENT YOUTH SERVICES PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT’S GANG RESISTANCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM.**

**\*136-13 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF CYNTHIA SAUNDERS MAIGNAN (D) TO THE FIRE COMMISSION.**

**\*95-13 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE CITY ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AS PART OF THE BIDDING PROCESS FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB LOCATED AT 555 MADISON AVENUE.**

**\*158-13 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MASTER MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR RIGHTS OF WAY PROJECTS.**

**\*159-13 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: LEASE AGREEMENT WITH GJS PROPERTIES, LLC FOR BRIDGEPORT POLICE PARKING LOCATED AT 205-245 CONGRESS STREET.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services